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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,791	03/24/2004	Felipe O. Simoes	555255012725	4249

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, NAM TRUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/807,791		SIMOES ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Nam Huynh		2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/8/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 16, and 31, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bo et al. (US 6,265,845).

A. Regarding claims 1, 16, and 31, Bo et al. discloses a portable battery charger having a separate battery pack comprising the following:

- A battery charger for a mobile station (figure 7, item 400).
- A charging unit that is removable from the charger housing (figure 2, item 10, 20). The charging unit is coupled to connectors that are used to mate with an electrical outlet and the charging unit (figure 13A).
- An output assembly coupled to the charging unit for charging a mobile station (figure 7, items 10, 20, 400).

B. Regarding claim 2, Bo et al. discloses that the battery charging unit is compatibly used for various electronic instruments such as mobile stations, notebook computers, electric shavers, etc. (column 1, lines 44-47). Bo et al. also discloses that the charging unit has an interface connector in which the connectors shown in figures 13A and 13B are used to interface with (column 5, lines 29-42). Therefore, since the invention has the versatility of charging batteries of different electronic devices and different

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connectors can be used to interface with the charging unit, a second input assembly would be disclosed when the battery of an electronic device that is not a mobile station is charged.

C. Regarding claim 5, Bo et al. discloses a charger housing (figure 2, item 10) that comprises an electrical contact (figure 3, item 144) that is associated with the charging unit and is configured to charge at least one battery of a mobile device (figure 7, item 400).

D. Regarding claim 6, Bo et al. discloses a charger housing coupled to a charging unit (figure 2, items 10, 20).

E. Regarding claim 7, Bo et al. discloses a charging unit with a socket (figure 2, item 240) with an adapter (figure 13A) configured to detachably mate with the socket.

3. Claims 20 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arnold (US 6,385,468).

A. Regarding claims 20 and 28, Arnold discloses an external connector and battery extension pack for a portable communication device comprising a system connector pack that interfaces with the battery extension pack that may be plugged into a variety of plugs or outlets such as a battery charger (column 6, lines 27-34). This connector pack also comprises a latching means for attachment with spring activated release buttons (column 6, lines 21-26).

B. Regarding claims 29-30, Arnold discloses release buttons (figure 6A-6D, items 110,115) in which the system connector is released or detached from the extension

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battery. Furthermore, Arnold states that alternative release mechanisms could be provided (column 5, lines 39-42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3-4, 12-15, 19, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bo et al. (US 6,265,845) in view of Huang (US 2002/0115480).

A. Regarding claims 3-4 and 32-34, Bo et al. discloses a portable battery charger having a separate battery pack comprising the following:

- A battery charger for a mobile station (figure 7, item 400).
- A charging unit that is removable from the charger housing (figure 2, item 10, 20). The charging unit is coupled to connectors that are used to mate with an electrical outlet and the charging unit (figure 13A).
- An output assembly coupled to the charging unit for charging a mobile station (figure 7, items 10, 20, 400).

Bo et al. does not explicitly disclose an output assembly consisting of a USB connector.

Huang discloses an adapter set in which an embodiment consists of an output assembly for a data transmission cable from a computer or computer peripheral apparatus (figure 11, item 833). Furthermore, Huang discloses that data transmission cables can be USB connectors (column 2, paragraph 0024). Therefore it would have

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been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the USB connectivity taught by Huang with the charger of Bo et al. in order to allow interface of the charger with a computer or computer peripheral apparatus.

B. Regarding claims 12 and 15, Huang discloses a power cord, adapter, and plug are integral and mate together (figure 3, item 51).

C. Regarding claims 13-14, Huang discloses an AC adapter connected to the base that is adapted to convert an AC power supply into DC power (figure 3, item 51 and page 1, paragraph 0018).

B. Regarding claim 19, Huang discloses a USB connector and cord for charging the battery of an electronic device at a remote location (figure 10).

C. Regarding claim 34, Bo et al. discloses a charging unit (figure 2, item 20) with a receptacle (figure 2, item 240) with an electrical contact (figure 5, item 250).

Furthermore, Bo et al. discloses a power cord and a plug associated with the style of an electrical outlet (figure 13A).

6. Claims 8-11 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bo et al. (US 6,265,845) in view of McKee et al. (US 4,893,351).

A. Regarding claims 8 and 17, Bo et al. discloses a portable battery charger having a separate battery pack comprising the following:

- A battery charger for a mobile station (figure 7, item 400).
- A charging unit that is removable from the charger housing (figure 2, item 10, 20). The charging unit is coupled to connectors that are used to mate with an electrical outlet and the charging unit (figure 13A).

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- An output assembly coupled to the charging unit for charging a mobile station (figure 7, items 10, 20, 400).

Bo et al. does not explicitly disclose that the power cord and AC adapter are connected to the base via a latching mechanism. McKee et al. discloses a communication receiver with a latching receptacle and a connector cable with a mating plug (column 2, lines 30-39). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the latching mechanism of McKee et al. with the charging unit of Bo et al. in order to secure and prevent accidental separation between the charging unit and adapter.

B. Regarding claim 9, McKee et al. discloses a groove (figure 9, item 58) or a recess and a pin or arm (figure 11, item 80).

C. Regarding claim 10, as shown in figures 9 and 11, the groove is a part of the mating plug or adapter and the pin or arm is part of the receiver.

D. Regarding claims 11 and 18, McKee et al. discloses a releasing means that disengages the plug from the socket (column 2, lines 43-49).

7. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold (US 6,385,468) in view of McKee et al. (US 4,893,351).

A. Regarding claim 21, Arnold discloses an external connector and battery extension pack for a portable communication device comprising a system connector pack that interfaces with the battery extension pack that may be plugged into a variety of plugs or outlets such as a battery charger (column 6, lines 27-34). This connector pack also comprises a latching means for attachment with spring activated release

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buttons (column 6, lines 21-26). Arnold does not explicitly disclose that the latching or attachment mechanism comprises a recess configured to receive an arm. McKee et al. discloses a communication receiver with a latching receptacle and a connector cable with a mating plug (column 2, lines 30-39) in which a recess is shown in figure 11 that receives the plug. The plug has a groove (figure 9, item 58) that receives the arms (figure 11, items 86, 88). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the latching mechanism of McKee et al. with the external connector of Arnold in order to securely lock the external connector to the mobile device.

B. Regarding claim 22, McKee et al. discloses arms that act as spring clips (figure 12, items 86,88). The plug shown in the figure can be considered applicant's post (figure 11, item 54).

C. Regarding claim 23, McKee et al. discloses that the arms are inwardly protruding and they mate with the groove in the plug (figures 11 and 12).

D. Regarding claim 24, McKee et al. discloses a pin (figures 11 and 12, item 80) that force the two springs apart.

E. Regarding claim 25, McKee et al. discloses a socket with a sleeve that guides the plug into the receptacle (figure 9, items 60, 66).

8. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold (US 6,385,468) and McKee et al. (US 4,893,351) as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Bo et al. (US 6,265,845).

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A. Regarding claim 26, the combination of Arnold and McKee et al. disclose all the limitations set forth in claim 20, but does not explicitly disclose that the latching mechanism consists of a pair of guide bars that are configured to engage spring biased ball bearings. Bo et al. discloses a portable battery charger comprising of a guide structure for mounting the charging unit into the charger housing with guide grooves on the charging unit and guide ribs on the charger housing (figure 2, items 141a-c). Furthermore Bo et al. discloses a locker that may be designed under the resiliency of a spring (column 3, lines 43-48). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to follow the teachings of Bo et al. and implement a guide structure with the combination of Arnold and McKee et al. in order ensure proper placement and fitment of the adapter to the latching mechanism.

B. Regarding claim 27, although Bo et al. does not explicitly disclose an L shaped cross-section, it would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to design the shape of the guide bars or structure in order to meet specification and design criteria.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nam Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-5970. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m.-5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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